

AT A GLANCE: The NIH STRIDES Initiative

OVERVIEW

NIH supports research projects that generate tremendous amounts of biomedical data. Much of this research data has traditionally been stored and made available to the broader community through public repositories or at local institutions. This model, however, has become strained, as the amount of data generated in these rigorous research projects continues to grow. The Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Discovery, Experimentation, and Sustainability (STRIDES) Initiative addresses the problems of data storage and accessibility by harnessing the power of the commercial cloud in support of biomedical research.

WHAT IS THE STRIDES INITIATIVE?

The STRIDES Initiative, one of many NIH-wide efforts to implement the NIH Strategy for Data Science, is designed to enhance biomedical discovery and improve efficiency through new digital data management strategies that contribute to NIH efforts to develop and sustain a modern biomedical data ecosystem.

Through partnerships with commercial cloud service providers (CSPs), the STRIDES Initiative provides a cost-effective way for biomedical researchers at the NIH and at NIH-funded institutions to access rich datasets and the most advanced computational infrastructure, tools, and services provided by CSPs. The overall goal of the initiative is to accelerate biomedical advances by reducing economic and technological barriers to data and resources. A central tenet of the STRIDES Initiative is that data made available through these partnerships will incorporate standards endorsed by the biomedical research community to make data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR), while employing appropriate safeguards for controlled access data.

GOALS OF THE STRIDES INITIATIVE

The STRIDES Initiative aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Facilitate researchers' access to and use of high-value NIH research data that are currently stored on, or will be moved into, cloud environments.
- Support researchers' transition to commercial cloud technologies through a cost-efficient framework.
- Provide NIH researchers access to and training on new and emerging cloud-based tools and services to enhance cutting-edge research.
- In close coordination with the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy and other NIH initiatives in data science, contribute to the formation of an interconnected ecosystem that breaks down silos that inhibit generating, analyzing, and sharing research data.

BENEFITS OF THE STRIDES INITIATIVE

In addition to broadening access to rich datasets, the STRIDES Initiative provides the following benefits:

- **Discounts on Cloud CSP Services** – Favorable pricing on computing, storage, and related cloud services for NIH ICs and NIH-funded institutions.
- **Professional Services** – Access to professional service consultations and technical support from CSP partners.
- **Training** – Access to training for researchers, data owners, and others to help ensure optimal use of available tools and technologies.
- **Potential Collaborative Engagements** – Opportunities to explore methods and approaches that may advance NIH's biomedical research objectives (with scope and milestones of engagements agreed upon separately).



Note: The choice of participating CSP determines the type of pricing, training, services, and tools available.

CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS

The STRIDES Initiative now has agreements in place with **Amazon Web Services** and with **Google Cloud**. We anticipate forming additional industry partnerships in the coming months to assure that NIH continues to be poised to maximize the value of data obtained through biomedical research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the STRIDES Initiative, visit the Data Science at NIH website at <https://datascience.nih.gov/strides> or contact the NIH STRIDES Initiative team at CIT_Cloud_Services@mail.nih.gov.